



ALAMEDA COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Memorandum

*March 9, 2009
Agenda Item 7.0*

Date: March 2, 2009

To: **Sunol Express Lane Joint Powers Authority**

From: Ray Akkawi, Manager of Project Delivery

Subject: I-680 Express Lane Project: Regional HOT Lanes Network Discussions

Background

MTC is moving forward with its initiative to see a network of High Occupancy Toll Lanes throughout the Bay Area. Thus far, their efforts have included a series of meetings with congestion management agency executives from each of the nine Bay Area counties. The primary topics of discussion have included governance, financing and operations.

Concurrent with these regional discussions, meetings have been held between the ACCMA, VTA and MTC/BATA to address specific implementation issues arising from the Alameda and Santa Clara HOT Lane projects that are currently being developed. These discussions have focused on equipment location, customer service and incident response.

In February, discussions began to converge around the value of forming a Bay Area Express Lanes Management and Operations Committee that would facilitate decision-making related to the implementation of the various Express Lane projects that together comprise the Bay Area HOT Lanes Network.

Committee Plan

The proposed M&OC will consist of key staff from each of the implementing agencies along with BATA, Caltrans and the CHP.

Under the M&OC there will be subcommittees tasked to address regional coordination issues and propose solutions to the M&OC for approval. Any issues directly impacting the JPA's implementation of the I-680 Express Lane will come to the JPA for approval.

Initial Decisions

The initial decisions to be put before the M&OC are:

- Sites for the Toll Data Centers,
- An MTC/BATA proposal to contract for an Express Lane Customer Service Center, and
- A proposal to manage all incidents related to the Express Lanes through the Caltrans TMC with the use of expanded Freeway Service Patrols.

Future Issues and Topics

The M&OC must also address topics related to the design of future Express Lane facilities, how to contract for focused CHP enforcement, how to equip the CHP with common enforcement equipment and protocols, and how to enter into consistent agreements for the various facilities in the Bay Area.

Relationship to the JPA

The specific relationship between the M&OC and the JPA must still be determined. At the moment, the M&OC is an adhoc committee assembled to facilitate mutually beneficially policy decisions. The JPA is statutorily established to manage the operation of the I-680 Express Lane. In this arrangement, the M&OC will be making recommendations to the JPA for consideration and approval.